

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A recombinant polynucleotide which comprises:

(a) a sequence which encodes a human sodium channel protein comprising SEQ ID 3 to 17 wherein ascending numerical order represents the order in which the SEQ ID is read in the 5' to 3';

(b) a sequence complementary to the sequence of (a);

~~(c) a sequence which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a sequence as defined in (a) or (b), wherein stringent hybridization comprises hybridization at a temperature of from about 35°C to about 65°C and with a salt solution which is about 0.9 molar;~~

~~(d) (c)~~ a sequence that is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to a sequence as defined in (a) or (b) ~~or (c); or~~

~~(e) a sequence having at least 80% identity to a sequence as defined in (a), (b), (c) or (d).~~

Claim 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An isolated amino acid sequence encoded by a polynucleotide according to claim 20 ~~or claim 21~~.